

Art Unit: 3700

CLMPTO

12/28/04

AR

1. (Amended) A threaded introducer system for accessing a bodily passageway, said introducer system comprising:

a flexible tube having a distal end and a proximal end, a longitudinal axis extending between said distal end and said proximal end, and a lumen extending from said distal end to said proximal end, said lumen being sized to receive an object to be transported through the bodily passageway;

apparatus for connecting the object received within said lumen to said tube, said apparatus comprising a rotary coupling attached to said object and said tube such that said object attached to said rotary coupling may rotate freely about said longitudinal axis of said tube while being longitudinally fixed to said tube; and

an external thread disposed over said distal end of said tube, said external thread having a sufficient structural integrity, and a sufficient surface profile, such that when said tube is disposed in a bodily passageway, rotation of said tube

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about said longitudinal axis will result in longitudinal motion of said tube along said bodily passageway.

2. (Original) A threaded introducer system according to claim 1 wherein said object comprises visualization apparatus for visualizing structures disposed adjacent to said distal end of said tube.

3. (Amended) A visualization system for traversing a bodily passageway, said system comprising:

a flexible tube having a distal end and a proximal end, a longitudinal axis extending between said distal end and said proximal end, and a lumen extending from said distal end to said proximal end;

visualization apparatus received in said lumen for visualizing structures disposed adjacent to said distal end of said tube, a rotatable coupling attached to said visualization apparatus and being attached to said tube such that the visualization apparatus may rotate freely about the longitudinal axis of said tube while being longitudinally fixed to said tube; and

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4x. (Amended) An access device for accessing a bodily conduit, said ~~conduit~~ access device comprising:  
a body having a distal end and a proximal end, a longitudinal axis extending between said distal end and said proximal end, and a lumen extending from said distal end to said proximal end, said lumen being adapted to receive a gastrointestinal endoscope therein, and a rotatable coupling adapted to attach said gastrointestinal endoscope to said body such that said gastrointestinal endoscope may rotate freely about said longitudinal axis of said body while being longitudinally fixed to said body.

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